

# CAN I USE MY GRAYWATER\*?

***Before using your gray water, check with your local governing body to ensure there are no additional requirements in place. Residential users do not need a permit from the state to use gray water.***

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has recently issued new regulations for all types of reclaimed water.

Those regulations include guidelines for the use of residential gray water.










If you would like a copy of the regulations you can contact ADEQ at 1-800-234-5677.

Written in non-technical terms, the regulations make it very simple and affordable for the resident to use gray water, saving money and our valuable water.

After checking with your local government, you can use your gray water if you answer yes to the following statements:

**\*Graywater:** All household water except toilet, dishwasher and kitchen sink water.

## YES . . .if

-  I use my gray water for my own private residence.
-  I use my gray water directly on my own landscape for irrigation.
-  My family uses less than 400 gallons of gray water per day (35 gallons per day X number of family members = how much gray water your family creates in a day.)
-  I avoid direct contact with my gray water and do not allow others to contact it directly.
-  All my gray water originates from my residence and is used within the property boundary for household gardening, composting, lawn watering, or landscape irrigation.
-  My gray water is not used for irrigation of food plants except for citrus and nut trees.
-  I don't allow my gray water to contain hazardous chemicals derived from activities such as cleaning of car parts, washing of greasy or oily rags, or disposal of waste solutions from home photo labs or home occupational activities.
-  I apply my gray water to my landscape in such a way that it minimizes standing water on the surface.
-  My gray water system is constructed so that in the case of a blockage, plugging or backup of the system, all my gray water can be directed into the sewage collection system or on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system, as applicable. (The gray water system may include a means of filtration to reduce the opportunity for plugging and to extend the life of the system).

💧 If I have a gray water storage tank, it is covered to restrict access and to eliminate habitat for mosquitoes or other vectors.

💧 My gray water system is sited outside of any floodway.

💧 My gray water system is operated so as to maintain a minimum vertical separation distance of at least 5 feet from the point of gray water application to the top of the seasonally high groundwater table.

💧 If I use any pressure piping in my gray water system that might be susceptible to cross connection with a potable water system, it is clearly marked.

💧 My gray water does not contain water from a washing machine that is used to wash diapers or similarly soiled or infectious garments unless that gray water is disinfected before irrigation.

💧 My gray water irrigation is only by flood or drip. I do not spray irrigate with my gray water.

**NOTE:** DO NOT use your gray water if you soften your water with sodium chloride. It will harm your plants. Use potassium chloride instead.

These gray water regulations became effective  
January 1, 2001

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
R18-9-711 Type 1 Reclaimed Water General  
Permit for Gray Water

For more information  
call the Cochise County Health Department  
Environmental Health Division  
520-432-9440

Brochure courtesy of the  
*Water Wise* Program  
520-458-8278 ext. 2139 (Sierra Vista)  
586-3467 (Benson)  
364-4146 (Douglas)  
384-3594 (Willcox)

[www.ag.arizona.edu/cochise/waterwise](http://www.ag.arizona.edu/cochise/waterwise)

Text courtesy of WATER CASA  
For a Graywater Guidelines book, go to  
[www.watercasa.org](http://www.watercasa.org)

The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation in its programs and activities.

## CAN I USE MY GRAYWATER

?

